MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FRIDAY, MAY 9,1941.

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1941 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, May 9, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
Mr. Bruce,
Mr. Poor,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary

and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held March 17, 1941, were approved.

2. ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN: On motion, properly moved and seconded, Mr. Lamb was elected Vice Chairman of the Commission.

3. RESOLUTION: The Commission expressed their regret over the death of Arno B. Cammerer, former Director of the National Park Service, at twelve minutes to seven, Wednesday morning, April 30, 1941. The Commission recalled that he was the first Clerk to the Commission of Fine Arts at the time of its establishment in 1910 and later became Assistant to the Secretary. It was agreed that Mr. Moore be asked to draft a Resolution,which is to be engrossed and sent to the family.

4. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS:

a. The secretary presented a design for an apartment house at 2001 E Street, N.W. (Application No.907). The design was inspected by Mr. Lamb and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it tentatively subject to

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4. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS:

a. The secretary presented a design for an apartment house at 2001 R Street, N.W. (Application No.907). The design was inspected by Mr. Lamb and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it tentatively subject to

submission of working drawings and list of materials of construction, including sample of brick, etc.

(b) The secretary presented a set of drawings for an apartment house at 1929 E Street, N.W. (Application No.908) designed by Joseph H. Abel. Mr. Lamb inspected the drawings and noted that it proposed a very ordinary type of apartment house. The design was therefore disapproved.

(c) Alteration of 300 Third Street, Southwest. Mr. Lamb inspected a design for altering a store building (Application No.911). The design was approved with the understanding that the cinder blocks will be omitted and the brick painted white to match the old structure and also the old sign be removed and application to be made for a new sign.

(d) Alteration of 638 North Capitol Street (Application No.906). Mr.Lamb inspected the drawing for alteration of this building, and recommended that the structural glass be omitted and to use brick or stucco painted white; no objection to the marquee if it will be over the main entrance. Special application is to be made for a sign.

(e) Row Houses at 4020-4036 Arkansas Avenue, Northwest (Application No.909): The Inspector of Buildings submitted a set of drawings for row houses at this location. The Commission requested that the applicant submit a well drawn perspective, for consideration of the project at the next meeting.

5. DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a school building to be erected at Fourth and D Streets, Southeast, facing D Street. In style of architecture it was based on colonial motives for a brick building of a type to be used for replacing similar old graded school buildings. The Commission approved the design.

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(b) The secretary presented a set of drawings for an apartment house at 1529 K Street, N.W. (Application No.908) designed by Joseph H. Abel. Mr. Lamb inspected the drawings and noted that it proposed a very ordinary type of apartment house. The design was therefore disapproved.

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5. MUSEUM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a school building to be erected at Fourth and D Streets, Southeast, facing D Street. In style of architecture it was based on colonial motives for a brick building of a type to be used for replacing similar old graded school buildings. The Commission approved the design.

6. SUBWAY FOR UNION STATION: Mr. B. R. Tolson, Manager, and his assistant Mr. Tyler, Engineer, of the Washington Terminal Company, were in conference with the Commission concerning a sketch that had been made by Mr. Tyler for a subway under the Plaza and Union Station, to serve as additional traffic distributor, thus eliminating a marquee that had been proposed for the front of the building but disapproved by the Commission. Mr. Tolson said the Railroad Companies want to do the best and proper thing, and this scheme for a subway was being submitted for comment. He said that Capt. Whitehurst, Director of District of Columbia Highways, favors going out to E Street, rather than entering from Louisiana and Delaware Avenues.

The Commission inspected the design and expressed the opinion that the solution of the problem as indicated appeared to be in the right direction.

Later in the day Mr. Arthur Heaton, Architect, submitted a design as the consultant for the Terminal Company, for a marquee. Mr. Heaton was informed of the endorsement of the sketch for a subway at the morning session, but the Chairman agreed to talk with Dr. Cret about the matter. In the meantime further study will be made of the subway project.

7. RELOCATION OF THE McMillan Fountain: Mr. Clarke reported that due to the fact that the Reservoir at McMillan Park is to be enlarged, it has become necessary to remove the McMillan Fountain from its present location and that he had suggested to David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, that it be located on the Reservation to the east of the Gallery, thereby doing away with tennis courts now there. The site on the Mall would be appropriate for the fountain, since Senator McMillan was instrumental in having the McMillan Commission, authorized by the United States Senate, restore the L'Enfant Plan, and provide for the beautification of Washington.

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However, Mr. Clarke said, the Trustees of the National Gallery have declined to accept the fountain, since they want a new fountain adjacent to their building.

The McMillan Fountain was designed by Herbert Adams, sculptor, and Charles A. Platt, architect, and was erected in 1913. In design it is about 17 feet high, having a large and small bowl surmounted by three maidens, in bronze, the rest being in Stony Creek granite with fine carving and well preserved.

Mr. Clarke then called attention to the corresponding reservation on the south side of the Mall at Third Street and Independence Avenue and the Commission agreed that the fountain should be located there. The National Park Service was requested to prepare a landscape plan for the fountain for the consideration of the Commission at the next meeting (Exhibit A).

8. TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDINGS: Mr. Clarke reported that about three weeks ago a letter was received from Mr. Louis Simon, submitting a set of plans for tempozary office buildings, as follows:

April 28, 1941.

In connection with the proposed Temporary Office Buildings to be erected in this city, there are forwarded to you enclosed, for comment and advice, four sets of blueprints showing the proposed exterior elevations which will be generally typical for the buildings on the various sites mentioned below:

Army War College Site (Buildings A, B, and C)
War Department site, between 22d and 23d Streets, C & E Streets, N.W.
National Arboretum Site, N.E.
Site ~~fr~~ of National Training School for Boys, Bladensburg Road, N.E.

There are also enclosed blueprints of plans (four sets) showing the locations of the buildings on the sites.

In connection with building "D" to be erected on the Mall Site, blueprints of the drawings have already been forwarded to your Commission.

In the absence of Dr. Cret in Bermuda and Mr. Holabird in Jamaica, the

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In connection with building "D" to be erected on the Mall Site, blueprints of the drawings have already been forwarded to your Commission.

In the absence of Dr. Oret in Bermuda and Mr. Holabird in Jamaica, the

plans were sent by the secretary to Mr. Clarke and to Mr. Lamb, who inspected them and noted that they contemplated a simple type of two-story temporary office building, and recommended their approval. Accordingly, the Chairman sent the following telegram to Mr. Simon:

May 5, 1941

Mr. Louis A. Simon, Acting Commissioner
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency, Washington, D.C.

Commission of Fine Arts approves plans for Temporary Office Buildings to be erected in Washington, subject to approval of Planning Commission as to sites. Commission assumes these structures are for use during present emergency and that they will be demolished at termination of said emergency period.

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman.

The Commission concurred in the action taken, as above indicated.

9. PORTRAIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER: The secretary reported that Mr. John C. Johansen, painter, had sent the portrait of former President Herbert Hoover for inspection by the Commission, and that he had received the following letter from Mr. Hoover approving the portrait:

The Waldorf Astoria,
New York, New York,
May 4, 1941.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have seen your recent letter asking if I approve of the portrait just finished by Mr. Johansen. I am glad to do so and to express my appreciation to the Commission of Fine Arts for suggesting so fine an artist.

Yours faithfully,
Herbert Hoover

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Poor was asked to comment on the portrait. He said, "It seems to me a perfectly superficial and sentimental likeness of Mr. Hoover. You feel that it was done from photographs rather than from life. It is not

feel that it was done from photographs rather than from life. It is not to me a perfectly superficial and sentimental likeness of Mr. Hoover. You

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a dignified and worthy portrait for the White House."

After further consideration, the Commission felt that the portrait is as good as those of a number of ex-presidents in the White House, and the Commission therefore accepted it with the suggestion that it be sent to the Joint Committee on the Library for their attention, and that it then be referred to the Special Committee on White House furnishings (Exhibit B).

10. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD ADDITION: Dr. Adolph C. Miller and Chester Morrill, secretary, of the Federal Reserve Board, were in conference with the Commission concerning the question of stone for the exterior of their proposed Addition on the north side of C Street. Dr. Miller urged the use of marble, saying that had been agreed to by member of the Commission of Fine Arts when the main building on Constitution Avenue was built and the site north of C Street was purchased.

The Chairman, speaking for the Commission, stated that conditions have changed since their first building was built, in that two large buildings, the new Interior Department and the War Department buildings, have been built of limestone, and that therefore the rest of the buildings north of C Street should be in limestone. It was finally agreed that the Chairman have a talk with Dr. Cret, the architect, concerning this matter. A transcript of the discussion is attached hereto and is made a part of these Minutes (Exhibit C).

11. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING: The Chairman presented the following letter received from the Department of Commerce on the subject:

Department of Commerce
The Office of the Secretary
Washington

April 24, 1941

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After further consideration, the Commission felt that the portrait is as good as those of a number of ex-Presidents in the White House, and the Commission therefore accepted it with the suggestion that it be hung at the joint Committee on the Library for their attention, and that it then be returned to the Judicial Committee on White House Furnishings (Exhibit).

10. FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING: Dr. Adolph C. Miller was chairman Morrill, secretary, of the Federal Reserve Board, came in conference with the Commission concerning the position of a score for the exterior of their proposed addition on the north side of C Street. Mr. Miller urged the use of marble, saying that had been agreed to by member of the Commission of fine Arts when the main building on Constitution Avenue was built and the site north of C Street was purchased.

The Chairman, speaking for the Commission, stated that conditions have changed since their first building was built, in that two large wings, the new Interior Department and the War Department building, have been built of limestone, and that therefore the rest of the building north of C Street should be in limestone. It was finally agreed that the Chairman have a talk with Dr. Grey, the architect, concerning this matter. A transcript of the discussion is attached hereto and is made a part of these minutes (Exhibit C).

11. PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING: The Chairman presented the following letter received from the Department of Commerce on the subject:

Department of Commerce
The Office of the Secretary
Washington

April 24, 1931

My dear Mr. Clarke:

This Department has been informed by the Public Buildings Administration of the Federal Works Agency, that the Fine Arts Commission does not feel that it would prove satisfactory to place the mural painting representing the steel industry on the east wall of the delivery room of the Library in this building. We were further informed that the Commission would be glad to give consideration to the placing of this painting in Washington if a suitable place can be found for it.

Officials of this Department believe that the Department of Commerce Building is the most appropriate Government establishment for the installation of the painting, which depicts the steel industry. While it is the fact that the painting was designed for the United States Steel Corporation, it has been definitely agreed that the name of that Corporation is not to be used nor displayed in connection with the picture.

Various industries are continuously exhibiting their products in the Lobby of this building, and they have created considerable public interest. In fact, there is more demand for such displays than we can accommodate. The Library is for the use of the personnel and officials of this Department and other Governmental agencies; it is not a public library nor a 'show place' to be visited by sightseers, and the east wall of the Library appears to be a location entirely suitable for the mural.

Under these circumstances, will you please give further consideration to granting authority for the placing of this mural painting on the wall in our Library?

By direction of the Secretary:

Very truly yours,
(Sgd) M. Kerlin,
Administrative Assistant to the Secretary

The Commission visited the Department of Commerce Library in the afternoon and saw the location proposed for the painting. However, as no photograph of the painting was available, Mr. Simon was requested to supply it, so that the matter could be further considered at the next meeting of the Commission. Mr. Simon said he doubted if another location than the Library is available in the building, the painting being 68' long and 10'8" high.

12. SCULPTURE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Bruce reported that Mr. Henry Kreis is giving further study to the eagle over the main entrance to the War Department Building and that he expects it will be ready in two weeks. The Commission decided therefore to arrange for inspection of the model in

by mail." Clarke:

This Department has been informed by the Public Buildings Administration of the Federal Works Agency, that the Fine Arts Commission does not feel that it would prove satisfactory to place the mural painting representing the steel industry on the east wall of the delivery room of the Library in this building. We were further informed that the Commission would be glad to give consideration to the placing of this painting in Washington if a suitable place can be found for it.

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Various industries are continuously exhibiting their products in the lobby of this building, and they have created considerable public interest. In fact, there is more demand for such displays than we can accommodate. The library is for the use of the personnel and officials of this Department and other Governmental agencies; it is not a public library nor a "show place" to be visited by sightseers, and the east wall of the library appears to be a location entirely suitable for the mural.

Under these circumstances, will you please give further consideration to granting authority for the placing of this mural painting on the wall in our library?

By direction of the Secretary:

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) M. Merlin.

Administrative Assistant to the Secretary

The Commission visited the Department of Commerce Library in the afternoon and saw the location proposed for the painting. However, as no photograph of the painting was available, Mr. Nixon was requested to supply it, so that the matter could be further considered at the next meeting of the Commission. Mr. Simon said he doubted if another location than the library is available in the building, the painting being 68' long and 10'6" high.

ISAMU NOGUCHI FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT MURALS: Mr. Nixon reported that Henry Varis is giving further study to the angle over the main entrance to the War Department Building and that he expects it will be ready in two weeks.

place at the next meeting of the Commission.

13. SCULPTURE FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: At his office in the Section of Fine Arts, Mr. Bruce presented revised models by Robert Cronbach for sculpture in the auditorium of the Social Security Building.

The Commission inspected the models and thought Mr. Cronbach had made an improvement on the original sketch models. Mr. Manship said he did not like this type of sculpture but thought Mr. Cronbach should be allowed to proceed with the work as an experiment. A report was sent to Mr.Bruce (Exhibit D)

14. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Bruce presented a design in color by Kindred McLeary for a painting 50 feet long in the new War Department Building, with letter as follows:

May 9, 1941.

"My dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached herewith is the mural design and the detail by Kindred McLeary selected in the National, anonymous competition by Mr. Boardman Robinson, Mr. Edgar Britton and Mr. Gifford Beal, serving as the jury.

The design illustrates the four liberties of American life protected by the War Department

Attached is a blue print showing the space where this mural is to be placed. It will be appreciated if the comment and advice of the Commission may be submitted to this office.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Bruce,"

Mr. Poor was asked to give his comments and said he felt that the very center panel was unfortunately the weakest spot in the design; that it was rather too sweet, and that the two figures there did not have as interesting poise and movement as prevailed throughout the rest of the design.

Also, the Commission called attention to certain protests that had been received from the National Education Association and Columbia University that the artist had omitted reference to the public schools; these protests were referred to Mr. Poor and to the Section of Fine Arts, with the suggestio r

place at the next meeting of the Commission.

that they be brought to the attention of the artist, for report at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission felt much pleased with the painting and approved it subject to the criticisms above mentioned (Exhibit E).

15. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Mr. Bruce submitted the following letter, with a painting by Phillip Guston for the space in back of the stage of the Auditorium in the Social Security Building:

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached hereto is a design by Mr. Phillip Guston for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage, Auditorium, Social Security Building. For exact space please see marked blueprint enclosed.

Mr. Guston was chosen by a jury consisting of Mr. Franklin C. Watkins, Miss Marguerite Zorach, Mr. Edward Biberman and Mr. Kindred McLeary as a runner up in the national competition for the mural decoration of the Social Security Building and was requested to redesign for these particular spaces.

It will be appreciated if the comments and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts may be given on this work.

Very cordially yours,
Edward B. Rowan,
Assistant Chief, Section of
Fine Arts.

Mr. Poor inspected the painting and suggested subduring the light in the top center panel, and giving more studied character to the dark forms.

The Commission approved the painting with the suggestion that the criticisms by Mr. Poor be embodied by the artist, and with the further suggestion and understanding that full sized cartoons of the painting be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit F)

16. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Under date of May 9, 1941, Mr. Bruce sutmitted a preliminary design by Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Independence Avenue side of the Social Security Building, with letter as follows:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached hereto is a design by Mr. Phillip Gruson for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage, mentioned.

Mr. Gruson was chosen by a jury consisting of Mr. Franklin C. Watkins, Miss Marguerite Zorach, Mr. Edward Biberman and Mr. Edward Millman, from a number of the original competition for the mural decoration of the Social Security Building and was requested to develop his design further before submitting it to the Commission for their approval.

It will be appreciated if the comments and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts may be given on this work.

Very cordially yours,

Edward E. Rowan,
Assistant Chief, Section of
Fine Arts.

Mr. Gruson interpreted the painting and suggested rubbing the light in the top center panel, and giving more studied character to the dark figure.

The Commission approved the painting with the suggestion that the criticism by Mr. Zorn be adopted by the artist, and with the further suggestion and understanding that full sized cartoons of the painting be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit F)

16. Mural Painting for the SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Under date of May 9, 1941, Mr. Bruce submitted a preliminary design by Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Inner entrance Arcade side of the Social Security Building, with letter as follows:

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached hereto is a design by Mr. Phillip Gruson for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage, mentioned in back of the stage of the auditorium in the Social Security Building:

Mr. Bruce requested the following letter, with a painting by Phillip Gruson for the

that they be present to the artist, for report at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission felt much pleased with the painting and approved it subject to the criticisms were mentioned (Exhibit E).

16. Mural painting for the Social Security Building: Mr. Bruce submitted the following letter, with a painting by Phillip Gruson for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage of the auditorium in the Social Security Building:

May 9, 1941.

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Mr. Gruson was chosen by a jury consisting of Mr. Franklin C. Watkins, Miss Marguerite Zorach, Mr. Edward Biberman and Mr. Edward Millman, from a number of the original competition for the mural decoration of the Social Security Building and was requested to develop his design further before submitting it to the Commission for their approval.

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Very cordially yours,

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Mr. Gruson interpreted the painting and suggested rubbing the light in the top center panel, and giving more studied character to the dark figure.

The Commission approved the painting with the suggestion that the criticism by Mr. Zorn be adopted by the artist, and with the further suggestion and understanding that full sized cartoons of the painting be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit F)

16. Mural painting for the SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Under date of May 9, 1941, Mr. Bruce submitted a preliminary design by Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Inner entrance Arcade side of the Social Security Building, with letter as follows:

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached hereto are two color designs submitted by Mr. Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Independence Avenue entrance of the Social Security Building. For exact spaces please see marked blue prints enclosed.

Mr. Fogel was chosen by a jury consisting of Mr. Franklin C. Watkins, Miss Marguerite Zorach, Mr. Edward Biberman and Mr. Kindred McLeary as a runner up in the national competition for the mural decoration of the Social Security Building. The subject matter was reviewed and suggested by the Social Security Board.

It will be appreciated if the comments and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts are given on this work.

Very cordially yours,
Edward B. Rowan,
Assistant Chief,
Section of Fine Arts.

The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Poor. Mr. Poor commended the design for its fine clarity, but felt it would be much improved by more subtle and varied color so as to avoid a rather poster-like character.

The Commission recommended that the artist give further study to this detail and resubmit the design after embodying the criticism by Mr. Poor. (Exhibit G).

17. MARIAN ANDERSON PAINTING: Mr. Bruce presented a design for this painting, with letter as follows:

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

As you perhaps know, two years ago the Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee was formed to raise funds by private subscription to execute a suitable mural painting to commemorate the concert by Marian Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, 1939, to be placed in a building in Washington.

As a location for the mural space on the west wall of the basement floor corridor south, south of the main stairwell next to the entrance to the cafeteria in the new Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D.C., was approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, who you will recall sponsored the Marian Anderson concert.

The Commissioner of Public Buildings under date of June 27,1940, issued to the Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee a revocable license to install such a mural painting. At the request of the Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee the Section of Fine Arts conducted a

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Attached hereto are two color designs submitted by Mr. Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Independence Avenue entrance of the Social Security Building.

Mr. Fogel was chosen by a jury consisting of [illegible] competition for the mural decoration of the Social Security Building. The subject matter was reviewed and suggested by the Social Security Board.

It will be appreciated if the comments and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts are given on this work.

Very cordially yours,

Edward A. Eberle,

Assistant Chief,

Section of Fine Arts.

The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Poor.

Mr. Poor commended the design for its fine clarity, but felt it would be much improved by more subtle and varied color so as to avoid a rather poster-like character.

The Commission recommended that the artist give further study to this detail and resubmit the design after discussing the criticism by Mr. Poor. (Exhibit C).

17. [illegible] ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Eberle presented a design for this painting, with letter as follows:

May 9, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

As you recall, two years ago the Treasury Section [illegible] Fund Committee was formed to raise funds by private subscription to execute a suitable mural painting to commemorate the concept by Gutzon Borglum of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, 1939, to be placed in a building in Washington.

Late June for the mural space on the west wall of the Department Floor Corridor south, south of the main stairwell next to the entrance to the cafeteria in the new Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D.C., was approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, who will recall approving the earlier modern concept.

The Committee of Public Buildings under date of June 27, 1940, issued to the Section Advisory Mural Fund Committee a revocable license to install said painting. At the request of the Treasury Department Mural Fund Committee the Section of Fine Arts submitted a

national anonymous mural competition to secure the design. The jury consisted of Duncan Phillips and the following artists: Richmond Barthe, Gustaf Dalstrom, Isabel Bishop and Peppino Mangravite.

The jury selected the design by Mitchell Jamieson, a photograph of which I enclose. The design is in the scale of three inches equals one foot and the finished mural will be 12'6" high by 6' 10" wide.

I am very happy to submit the design for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Very truly yours,
Edward Bruce, Chairman,
The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee

The Commission inspected the painting. Mr. Poor commended the design as having the right kind of illustrative quality. He suggested that the sky might be a little more quiet.

The painting was approved subject to this criticism and with the understanding that full sized cartoons will be submitted by the artist for inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit H)

18. TEMPORARY BRIDGES AND NEW ROAD, ARLINGTON EXPERIMENTAL FARM: Under date of April 21, 1941, the following letter was received from the National Park Service:

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Reference is made to the proposal for early construction o f the new road across the old Arlington Experimental Farm to the south end of the south loop roadways on Columbia Island, forming another leg ir master plan for completing the approaches to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and in accordance with legislation approved last year.

Transmitted herewith are two prints, 1" - 100' scale, file No. NCP 2.C-15, showing the location and grade for the proposed new road within the authorized 200-foot right-of-way through the Arlington Farm to be transferred to the Interior Department. This plan was approved in principle by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on Thursday, April 17, and has been arrived at through the joint study by the Office of National Capital Parks, Public Roads Administration and the Planning Commission staff, in collaboration with the War Department.

At the April meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission the District department of the U.S.Engineer Office reported against the proposal to fill the Boundary Channel.

It is propoposed at this time to facilitate construction of this

Park Service:

My dear Mr. Demmerer:

Reference is made to the proposed for early construction o f the new road across the old Arlington Experimental Farm to the south end of the south loop roadway on Columbia Island, forming another leg in master plan for completing the approaches to the Arling ton Memorial Bridge, and in accordance with legislation approved last year.

Transmitted herewith are two prints, 1" - 100', scale, file No. NCP 5-0-12, showing the location and grade for the proposed new road within the authorized 204-foot right-of-way through the Arlington Farm to be transferred to the Interior Department. This plan was approved in principle by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on Thursday, April 17, and has been arrived at through joint study by the office of National Capital Parks, Public Roads Administration and the Planning Commission staff, in collaboration with the War Department.

At the April meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission the District department of the U.S. Engineer Office reported against the proposal to fill the Boundary Channel.

It is proposed at this time to facilitate construction of this

inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit K)

18. [illegible]: Under date of April 21, 1941, the following letter was received from the National

My dear Mr. Demmerer:

Reference is made to the proposed early construction o f the new road across the old Arlington Experimental Farm to the south end of the south loop roadway on Columbia Island, forming another leg in master plan for completing the approaches to the Arling ton Memorial Bridge, and in accordance with legislation approved last year.

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sky might be a little more quiet.

The painting was approved subject to this criticism and with the

understanding that full sized cartoons will be submitted by the artist for

inspection by the Commission in place (Exhibit K)

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At the April meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission the District department of the U.S. Engineer Office reported against the proposal to fill the Boundary Channel.

It is proposed at this time to facilitate construction of this

an having the right kind of illustrative quality. It suggested that the

The Commission inspected the painting. Mr. Noor commended the design

of the Commission of Fine Arts.

I am very happy to submit the design for the comment and advice

6' 10" wide.

equals one foot and the finished mural will be 11'0" high b

of which 1 enclose. The design is in the scale of three inches

The jury selected the design by Mitchell Jamies, a photograph

Emergency".

Mangravite.

jury consisted of Duncan Phillips and the following artists:

road for defense purposes to report to temporary bridge construction over the Boundary Channel and overpassing the Rosslyn connecting railroad at the locations ringed in yellow crayon on the aforementioned attached prints. The Public Roads Administration is very desirous of completing the structural plans for these temporary bridges and in accordance with this I enclose five (5) prints of the preliminary plans for the temporary trestle over Boundary Channel and overpass over the Rosslyn connecting railroad. It is requested that this matter be presented to the Commission of Fine Arts as soon as possible, probably through the Chairman and the architect members, in order that any changes desired in these temporary structures can be made before the final construction drawings are completed.

Very truly yours,
Donald L. Kline,
Acting Chief, Planning and Construction Division.

The secretary stated that he had sent prints of the designs to Mr. Clarke and to Mr. Lamb. The Commission inspected the drawings. Mr. Lamb reported that he felt this was an emergency National Defense project, and the designs were therefore approved with the suggestion that further study should be given the design of the intersection including the circle; this element to be resubmitted. The National Park Service was informed accordingly (Exhibit I)

19. LUMINOUS SIGNS FOR THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT: Under date of April 29, 1941, the following letter was received from the Civil Aeronautics Authority:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

In accordance with Mr. Donald L. Kline's letter of April 25, 1941, I am transmitting to you five sets of the proposed luminous signs to be installed along the relocated Mt.Vernon Highway.

Mr. Kline recommended that I furnish you these prints in order that action might be taken on the approval of these signs before the next meeting of the National Commission of Fine Arts.

Your action on this matter will be appreciated in order that we might go ahead with the advertising of this work for completion.

Very truly yours,
McIver Rountree, Resident Engineer
Washington National Airport

The Chairman inspected the drawings, and in behalf of the Commission approved them. (Exhibit J)

Aeronautics Authority:

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

In accordance with Mr. Donald L. Tilton's letter of April 25, 1941, I am transmitting to you five sets of the proposed luminous signs to be installed along the relocated Tiverton Highway.

Mr. Tilton recommends that I furnish you these prints in order that work might be taken on the approval of these signs before the next meeting of the Natural Commission of Fine Arts.

Your action on this matter will be appreciated in order that we might be armed with the advertising of this work for completion.

Very truly yours,

Conver Courtney, Assistant Engineer
Washington Natural Highways

The Chairman inspected the drawings, and in behalf of the Commission approved them. (Exhibit 1)

20. GREAT FALLS (MD) AREA, C & O CANAL: The Commission approved a plan submitted by the National Park Service for---

1. Relocation of the Garage for the U. S. Engineers Office (File No.NCP 110.5-56, sheets 1 and 2)

2. Location of public toilet building (File No.NCP 110.5-58, sheets 1 and 2)

3. Location of Filter Plant Building, File Nos.110.5-50, sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4.

21. PLANTING PLAN FOR NEW MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE BRIDGE: Upon the recommendation of Mr. Clarke, the Commission approved a planting plan for the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, with the suggestion that the evergreen material indicated on the plan be carried back into the existing wooded areas: laurel, holly, white pine, and ground covers will be used (Exhibit K)

22. RETAINING WALL FOR THE PARKWAY UNDER MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE BRIDGE: In behalf of the National Park Service, Mr. Donald Kline, discussed with Mr. Clarke the matter concerning the treatment of the retaining wall for the parkway under the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Clarke, the Commission agreed that a guard fence is preferable to a parapet wall, since it would not obstruct a view of the springing line of the arch (Exhibit L)

23. K STREET OVERPASS PLAN ALONG THE ROCK CREEK PARKWAY: Mr. Kline submitted a planting plan for this area in behalf of the National Park Service, and upon the recommendation of Mr. Clarke the Commission approved it.

24. SHERWOOD PLAYGROUND AND FIELD HOUSE: The National Park Service submitted a revised front elevation for the Field House in the Sherwood Playground at 10th and G Streets, Northeast, and the Commission approved it.

a plan submitted by the National Park Service for---

1. Relocation of the Ranger for the U. S. Engineers Office
(File No.NCP 110.5-56, sheets 1 and 2)

2. Location of public toilet building (File No.NCP 110.5-58, sheets 1 and 2)

3. Location of filter plant building, File No.110.5-60, sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4.

on the recommendation of Mr. Lamb, with the stipulation that the basement windows be handled in the same way as shown on the original presentation plans.

25. FREER GALLERY OF ART: Mr. Lamb, Mr. Manship and Mr. Poor inspected the following object of art, and upon their recommendation the Commission approved the purchase of it:

1 Chinese bronze ceremonial vessel of the type hou. Inscribed.

(Exhibit M)

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m., to meet in Washington on Saturday, May 24th.

1 Chinese bronze ceremonial vessel of the type hou. Inscribed.

(Exhibit M)

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

May 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, approved relocating the McMillan Fountain on the reservation between Third and Fourth Streets and Independence Avenue, adjacent also to Maryland Avenue, Southwest.

The Commission of Fine Arts would appreciate it if you would have a landscape plan prepared for the reservation in which it is proposed to erect this fountain.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

May 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, approved relocating the McMillan Fountain on the reservation between Third and Fourth Streets and Independence Avenue, adjacent also to Maryland Avenue, Southwest.

The Commission of Fine Arts would appreciate it if you would have a landscape plan prepared for the reservation in which it is proposed to erect this fountain.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

May 12, 1941.

My dear Senator Barkley:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on May 9, 1921, the Commission accepted a painting of former President Herbert Hoover by John C. Johansen for the White House.

The Commission respectfully submit the painting to you for the attention of the Joint Committee on the Library.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Alben W. Barkley, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B

Washington, D. C.
United States Senate
Joint Committee on the Library
Hon. Alben W. Barkley, Chairman

Chairman.

(Signed) Fairfax D. Cleaves,

Secretary Young,

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

the adoption of the Joint Committee on the Library.

The Commission respectfully submit the building to you for

Herbert Hoover by John C. Johansen for the White House.

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on May 7,

by Assistant Secretary Young:

Conference on the question of kind of stone for the
Addition to the Federal Reserve Board Building
May 9, 1941

Dr. Adolph C. Miller and Mr. Chester Morrill, secretary of the Federal Reserve Board, appeared before the Commission for a conference concerning the question of kind of stone for the exterior of their proposed Addition on the north side of C Street. Dr. Miller said:

"I appear here in the nature of an amicus curiae, a friend of the Art Commission and of the Federal Reserve. I was disappointed when I heard during the winter that the Commission had decided that the material of which the Federal Reserve Addition should be built should be limestone instead of Georgia marble. It came with such a shock that I felt it would not be too much to ask the Commission to reconsider the matter. This was only after the Federal Reserve Board had reached its own conclusion.

"The original plan was that it would be only a question of time before the second building would be erected as part of the original plan. While going through the records there appears to be a specific statement on the question. It seems to me there was an expression in the summer of 1935 in conference with Mr. Moore, one of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, when either Mr. Swartwout or Mr. Coolidge made inquiry as to the development on the north side. Mr. Moore said, 'we discussed that and decided that it should be in marble'. So I say at the time the Board thought it would be a unit--marble throughout.

"Now I would not have you do anything that is not in conformity with what is being planned for Washington. I hope you realize my position. I would not have you injure the landscape and if this were an isolated site I would say that there would be no question about having both buildings of the same material. But the Federal Reserve by the blessing of God and of the President actually

Conference on the question of kind of stone for the
Addition to the Federal Reserve Board Building
May 3, 1941

Mr. Adolph C. Miller and Mr. Chester Morrill, secretary of the Federal Reserve Board, appeared before the Commission for a conference concerning the question of kind of stone for the exterior of their proposed addition on the north side of C Street. Mr. Miller said:

"I appear here in the nature of an amicus curiae, a friend of the Fine Art Commission and of the Federal Reserve. I was glad to be invited when I heard during the winter that the Commission had decided that the material of which the Federal Reserve Addition should be built should be limestone instead of Georgia marble. It came with such a shock that I felt it would not be too much to ask the Commission to reconsider the matter. This was only after the Federal Reserve Board had reached its own conclusion.

"The original plan was that it would be only a question of time before the second building would be erected as part of the original plan. While going through the records there appeared to be a specific statement on the question. It seems to me there was an expression in the summer of 1932 in connection with 'Moore', one of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, when either Mr. Lamb or Mr. Coolidge made inquiry as to the development on the north side. Mr. Moore said, 'We discussed that and decided that it should be in marble.' So I say at the time the Board thought it would be a unit--marble throughout.

'Now I would not have you do anything that is not in conformity with what you inform the Congress and if this were an isolated site I would say that there would be no question about having both buildings of the same material being planned for Washington. I hope you realize my position. I would not like to be put the Federal Reserve by the planning of one end of the Treasury Department

came into possession of one of the finest sites in the City of Washington. Most public buildings suffer from lack of suitable settings. The site occupied by the Federal Reserve is about midway in the west rectangle and it has a fine and monumental setting.

"Now we understand that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission is planning for a great Plaza up to H Street, but there is nothing that gives me greater satisfaction than that the Park and Planning Commission is going to reconsider the development there in the light of what the Federal Reserve Building suggests."

Thereupon Dr. Miller submitted the elevations for the building designed by Dr. Cret, and said "Now that building in that particular location seems to me from the point of view of the architectural scheme of Washington to deserve a different material, such as is best suited to realize its full value. I can see the building in limestone---it would probably be more interesting, more sturdy, more masculine, and Dr. Cret said he could not go further with the design until the material for the exterior is finally selected; for if it is to be marble the treatment of the building would be more refined."

Chairman Clarke then explained the situation with respect to the Commission, and said, "We have an open mind, but back about 1935 the Northwest Rectangle was still in a state of flux--no one knew where the War Department would be located. Mr. Moore had hoped Pennsylvania Avenue west of the White House would be developed to Washington Circle. I do not know whether we all shared that view. It was then that Harvey Corbett made studies for a War Department Building and stept it up to a great height, an ordinary office building. Then the Public Buildings Administration came along and in discussion with the Park and Planning Commission there developed this Northwest Rectangle. This Interior Building was the first located in it.

to reconsider the development there in the light of what the Federal Reserve Building suggests."

Thereupon Mr. Miller submitted the elevations for the building designed by Mr. Orr, and said "Now that building in that particular location seems to me from the point of view of the architectural scheme of Washington to deserve a different material, such as is best suited to realize its full value. I can see the building in limestone---it would probably be more interesting, more stately, more reassuring," and Mr. Orr said he could not go further with the design until the material for the exterior is finally selected; for if it is to be marble the treatment of the building would be more refined."

Chairman Olvera then explained the situation with respect to the Commission, and said, "We have an open mind, but much about 1925 the Northwest Triangle was still in a state of flux---no one knew where the War Department would be located. Mr. Moore had hoped Pennsylvania Avenue west of the White House would be developed to Washington Circle. I do not know whether we all shared that view. It was then that Henry Cornell made application for a War Department building and stept it up to a great height, an ordinary office building. When the Public Building Administration came along and in discussion with the Park and Planning Commission there developed this most important location. This Interior Building was the first located in it.

We agreed upon studies for a plaza north of your building---the War Department on the west, an office building on the north side of the plaza and a "HeadHouse" for the Interior Department on the east side of the Plaza to face a similar building, the first unit of the War Department, on the west side of the Plaza.

"Now a long time ago the Commission of Fine Arts established the policy, and it is not written down. It was decided that marble buildings should be developed on Constitution Avenue west of Seventeenth Street to the Lincoln Memorial, where there are large open spaces and trees; likewise marble buildings should face the Mall. When the Northwest Rectangle developed a controversy arose concerning the War Department Building as to the question of whether or not it should be in marble. The front part of the building, or the first unit, will be the "Head House"; the main part of the building will be back of it and we thought since the rear building will be four times the size of the first unit it would detract from the marble buildings on Constitution Avenue and the Lincoln Memorial. I came to Washington twice and appeared before Committees of Congress in the matter. I saw that the marble, granite and the limestone people were represented. I said there should be a stone building for the War Department but did not emphasize limestone; and our Commission decided that none of the buildings north of C Street should be of marble by reason of the desire to keep the front on Constitution Avenue for marble buildings. The problem of this Federal Reserve Addition came up soon after and in view of the principle we had adopted we decided on limestone for the building. Dr. Cret did not vote and I could not tell you what he favored; the marble building would have meant a much larger commission. Now we appreciate the desirability of driving along C Street between buildings of uniform material. On the other hand we also appreciate the necessity of having a building that will harmonize with the War Department building.

Thus we are torn between the two policies, but we think the greater weight lies on the side of having the quadrangle harmonize in uniform material to conform to this new Interior Department Building and the War Department building. That decision was reached after careful thought; we gave it very careful consideration and we thought we weighed all the evidence at our disposal."

Dr. Miller replied, "It is not for me to question the validity of the judgment of the Commission of Fine Arts in this matter, but nevertheless I wish to say that while I attempt to know nothing about architecture I am interested in it. I am interested in the great monuments of architecture and I always come home wondering why so few are successful. You seldom see the building as the architect has planned it. I think there is a terrible monotony in the architecture of Washington. I have yet to find a friend who feels any great enthusiasm on Constitution Avenue until he reaches the National Gallery. As I see it the Northwest Triangle is terribly monotonous. This building we are in is muscular, but it is so large that it needs something else near it to break the beat. The appropriateness of the use of marble against limestone would be effective here and could be made part of the general frame work. The most important part would be the Plaza with its reflecting pool. You would see our building reflected. I think marble is aesthetically interesting; it is something we admire."

Mr. Clark replied, "We thought it desirable to have harmony and we are in a little different position. Our balloon has to be higher than yours. Yours is over the building---ours is over the city."

Mr. Morrill said that Dr. Miller has had an interest in the building from the time it was planned and that he is expressing the view of the Board of Governors in recommending that both buildings of the Federal Reserve be treated as a unit and be of the same material; and the Board bought

the square on the north side of C Street with the idea of placing a similar building there to that on the south side; furthermore C Street is not an important street, and the Board cannot understand why there must be a difference in exterior material of the two buildings."

Thereupon Mr. Lamb was asked to express his views. Mr. Lamb said, "I was not a member all the time Mr. Clarke speaks of, but in the last few years we have discussed the use of marble in relation to the Lincoln Memorial and in relation to the buildings north of C Street in the Northwest Rectangle. If the present Federal Reserve Building and this Addition were in another location I would not have the slightest hesitancy in making both buildings in marble. From the point of view of the Federal Reserve and the Annex I don't see why there should be a different material. But when you relate the Annex to a larger composition, such as the War Department and the neighboring buildings framing it, I cannot quite reconcile my mind to the idea of having both Federal Reserve buildings in the same material. It might be brick or sandstone, and there are some who would put one side limestone and the other side marble---Queen Ann in front and Mary Ann in back. Our minds are not closed, but I think we have to judge the larger aspect of the location rather than the relation of one building to the other."

Dr. Miller remarked, "But if this Addition were to be a Hall of Diplomacy for the nations of the world to assemble here, let us assume, I don't think there would be any question about saying that this building should be honored with better treatment and I don't think you would say the location is antagonistic. Architecturally and aesthetically this Addition occupies a place of honor, and it doesn't seem to me to make

addition occupies a place of honor, but it doesn't seem to me to be the location is entirely ideal. Practically any one of the locations other than the location of one existing to the other."

Mr. Miller remarked, "But if this addition were to be a wall of diplomacy for the nations of the world to encircle here, let us assume. I don't think there would be any question about saying that building should be removed with better treatment that I don't think you would say the location is entirely ideal. Practically any one of the locations other than the location of one existing to the other."

Thereupon Mr. Lord was asked to express his views. Mr. Lord said, "I was not a member all the time Mr. Charles speaks of, but in the last few years we have discussed the use of marble in relation to the Lincoln Memorial and in relation to the building here north of Utrecht in the Department Estate. If the present Federal Reserve building and this addition were in another location I would rue have the slightest hesitancy in making both buildings in marble. From the point of view of the Federal Reserve and the reason I don't see why there should be a different material. But when you relate the Annex to a larger composition upon as the Bar Department and the neighboring buildings forming it, I cannot quite reconcile my mind to the idea of having both Federal Reserve buildings in the same material. It might be brick or something, and there are some who would put one side limestone and the other side marble---even down in front and limestone in back. Our minds are not closed, but I might say to Jones the larger aspect of the location rather than the relation

any difference that a person sees a limestone building adjacent to it. Would it not add interest and break the monotony to have both marble and limestone in this area?"

Thereupon Mr. Manship was asked to express his views. Mr. Manship said, "It is not in my realm, but I can see the logic of keeping all of the buildings on the Plaza in uniform color. I often ask myself the question,- marble is not always white, so why not use marble of different texture? Limestone is beautiful material. It lends itself magnificiently to carving. It does not lend itself to high surface finish. I sometimes think why not mix up material in the buildings, the central portion one and flanking material in other. I don't see why we have to follow a strict rule always; yet certainly I would express myself not in opposition to the view of the Commission as to the uniformity of material facing the Plaza.

Mr. Morrill said this is to be a banking center, a place where banking agencies will be centralized, a fiscal center for the Government. "We could have eliminated C Street so far as we are concerned; it serves simply as access to our building."

Mr. Clarke remarked, "I think limestone is just as beautiful as marble, and the question arises whether the building could be built part in marble and part in limestone, but here I am on dangerous ground, since I do not know how the architect feels about it. On the other hand, I can say for our Commission that it has established its worth because of consistent policies and we have to deal with many builders. But we are not interested in Georgia, Alabama or Vermont marble, and we believe in certain types of buildings for certain areas. The builders know that, and so they have confidence in our Commission. As I have said, we favor marble buildings along the Mall, near

the Lincoln Memorial, around the Capitol, so the whiteness of marble is left to certain areas where there are trees to break the glare and good landscape setting. This is a pretty general policy with us and it goes back further than the present members of the Commission; it goes back before my time."

Mr. Manship again suggested trying the central element marble and flanking the building with limestone. Mr. Lamb said, "I touched on that but hesitated to say anything in deference to Paul Cret. He might be willing to consider it." Dr. Miller said, "I can see a restrained use of marble and limestone might be more beautiful than one kind of stone". He called attention to the use of marble and limestone in the Internal Revenue Building. Also it was stated there is marble and limestone in the interior of the National Gallery.

Mr. Clarke said, "We are in a position to accede to your wishes in the matter, but if we do we are causing trouble for ourselves in the future."

Dr. Miller replied, "This is a Governmental institution but not in the narrow legalistic sense. The Federal Reserve has a status which is unique. It pays out of its assessments against the Federal Reserve banks. So that if the rule adopted by the Commission applies to Government buildings, we might claim exemption. We are simply asking that our second unit be built like the first as originally planned, ad we appear in the nature of a private organization."

Mr. Clarke said, "I don't think we would let that into our deliberation. Our deliberations would be based on the relationship of this building to all the other buildings in the composition. We have to defend our policies rather hard and fast, and the Commission's work is seen not only in good projects carried out but we have also saved the National Capital from untold monstrosities.

"As I have said, in the administration of the Shipstead-Luce Act we follow a consistent policy, and this Northwest Rectangle comes within the area prescribed by the Act. So it is only in the consistency of our policy that we have strength."

Dr. Miller replied, "I have always had respect for the Commission of Fine Arts. It gives me a thrill to see beauty and dignity in our National Capital and you are building up one of the most vital forces in American life as you are successful here in presenting to the visitors of Washington something that strikes them with admiration and it has its influence throughout the United States. You are justified in being strict in your policies. But I would like to remind you of the plan adopted for our building years ago. I was made chairman of the building committee and pressure was brought to bear from many sources. So we arranged for a program of competition that was supervised by the Commission of Fine Arts; one of your members was architectural consultant, and the award of Dr. Cret's design was universally commended. Now we come to the point of completing the plan then adopted and we find ourselves prevented by this same Commission; now that does not seem to be just to our Board."

The Chairman then asked to be allowed to discuss this matter with Dr. Cret, to which Dr. Miller agreed. Dr. Miller also said, "We are ready to go ahead with the project; the marble exists. It was cut last winter. So far as the Board is concerned they are in the same position as the Commission--kicked if marble or kicked if limestone is used. I am both a modernist and a classicist, and I would like to see the best thing done that is possible for the Federal Reserve Board, for our building will stand many hundreds of years, and unless our Addition is built in marble, I think the American people will criticise our group in the years to come."

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

May 14, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to inspect the revised models for sculptural groups by Robert Cronbach to be placed in the Auditorium of the Social Security Building. The Commission felt that the models suggested a treatment of sculpture different from that heretofore placed in public buildings in Washington, but interposed no objection to having the sculptor proceed with his models to their final stages. Mr. Manship suggested giving the sculptor every encouragement. It is understood that the figures will be cast in metal.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

EXHIBIT D

Washington, D. C.
Federal Works Agency,
Public Buildings Administration,
Section of Fine Arts,
Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,

Chairman.

[Signed] Gilmore D. Clarke,

Sincerely yours,

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

It is understood that the figures will be cast in metal.

Mr. Bacon suggested giving the sculptor every encouragement.

having the sculptor present with his models in their final stages.

public buildings in Washington, but interposed no objection to

a treatment of sculpture different from that heretofore placed in

Security Building. The Commission felt that the models submitted

by Messrs. Thompson to be placed in the auditorium of the Social

were planned to improve the relief models on equipment fronts

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941,

Dear Mr. Bruce:

May 14, 1941.

C O P Y

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to inspect the design by Kindred McLeary for a mural painting in the new War Department Building. The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. The Commission were unanimous in expressing their appreciation of the painting and congratulate the artist on his achievement.

Mr. Poor felt the very center panel was unfortunately the weakest spot in the design; that it was rather too sweet, and that the two figures there did not have as interesting poise and movement as prevailed throughout the rest of the design. Also the Commission respectfully call attention to the attached copies of letters in which complaint is made by the National Education Association and Columbia University that the artist has omitted reference to the public school in his painting. Subject to these criticisms the Commission approved the design, with the understanding that full sized cartoons will be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:
Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 9, 1941,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

C O P Y

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to see the design by Mr. Phillip Guston for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage in the Auditorium of the Social Security Building. The painting was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Poor suggested subduing the light in the top center panel and giving more studied character to the dark forms. He felt that this whole top area called too much attention to itself.

The Commission approved the design with the suggestion by Mr. Poor, and with the understanding that full-sized cartoons will be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

EXHIBIT B

Mr. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 8, 1941, were pleased to see the design by Mr. Phillip Guston for the mural decoration of the space in back of the stage in the Auditorium of the Social Security Building. The painting was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Poor expressed subduing the light in the too white panel and giving more studied character to the dark forms. He felt that this whole top area called too much attention to itself.

The Commission approved the design with the suggestion by Mr. Poor, and with the understanding that full-sized cartoons will be submitted for inspection by the Commission in place.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

May 10, 1941.

C O P Y

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to inspect the preliminary design by Seymour Fogel for the mural decoration of two panels in the Independence Avenue side of the Social Security Building. The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission.

Mr. Poor commended the design for its fine clarity, but felt it would be much improved by more subtle and varied color so as to avoid a rather poster-like character. It is suggested that the artist give further study to this detail.

The Commission would be pleased to have the artist resubmit the design after embodying the criticism by Mr. Poor.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1941, were pleased to inspect the preliminary design by Norman Powell for the mural decoration of two panels in the Independence Avenue side of the Social Security Building. The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission.

Mr. Poor commended the design for its fine clarity, but felt it would be much improved by more subtle and varied color so as to avoid a rather poster-like appearance. It is suggested that the artist give further study to this detail.

The Commission would be pleased to have the artist resubmit the design after embodying the criticism by Mr. Poor.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Myers, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to inspect the design by Mitchell Jamieson for a mural painting which is being given by The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee to be placed in the new Interior Department Building. The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Poor commended the design as having the right kind of illustrative quality. He suggested that the sky might be a little more quiet. The Commission approved the design, subject to that criticism, and with the understanding that full-sized cartoons will be submitted by the artist for inspection by the Commission in place.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chairman,
The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

COPY

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, were pleased to inspect the design by Mitchell Jamieson for a mural painting which is being given by The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee to be placed in the new Interior Department Building. The design was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Poor commended the design as having the right kind of illustrative quality. He suggested that the sky might be a little more quiet. The Commission approved the design, subject to that criticism, and with the understanding that full-sized cartoons will be submitted by the artist for inspection by the Commission in place.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chairman,
The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

COPY

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, approved the design submitted by your office for the construction of a new road across the old Arlington Experimental Farm to the south end of the south loop roadways on Columbia Island, and the design for a temporary bridge over Boundary Channel and overpass over the Rosslyn connecting Railroad. The Commission believes that further study should be given the design of the intersection including the circle; this element the Commission would be pleased to have resubmitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT I

EXHIBIT I

Washington, D.C.
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director

Chairman

(Sgd.) Gilmore D. Clarke

Sincerely yours,

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

would be pleased to have resubmitted.

intersection including the circle; this element the Commission

that further study should be given the design of the

the Memphis connecting Railroad. The Commission believes

temporary bridge over Boundary Channel as exposed over

loop roadway on Columbia Island, and the early for a

Arlington Memorial Avenue to the south end of the south

for the construction of a new road across the old

May 9, 1941, approved the design submitted by your office

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on

Dear Mr. Drury:

May 10, 1941.

C O P Y

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Rountree:

The plans which you submitted with your letter of April 29th for the luminous directional signs to be erected along the relocated portion of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, marking the access to the Airport, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 9, 1941. The Commission approved the plans.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. McIver Rountree,
Resident Engineer,
Civil Aeronautics Authority,
Washington National Airport,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

COPY

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Rountree:

The plans which you submitted with your letter of April 25th for the luminous directional signs to be erected along the relocated portion of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, marking the access to the Airport, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 9, 1941. The Commission approved the plans.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. McIver Rountree,
Resident Engineer,
Civil Aeronautics Authority,
Washington National Airport,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

May 12, 1941

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, considered the preliminary planting plan for the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, in the vicinity of the new Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, and the letter of May 1st submitted therewith.

The Commission approve the plan with the addition, if possible, of hemlock, pine, or both, filtered through the woodland away from the bridge, so that the transition between hardwood and evergreen is not so abrupt.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K

COPY

May 13, 1941

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 9, 1941, considered the preliminary planting plan for the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, in the vicinity of the new Massachusetts Avenue bridge, and the letter of May 1st submitted therewith.

The Commission approves the plan with the addition, if possible, of hemlock, pine, or both, filtered through the woodland away from the bridge, so that the transition between hardwood and evergreen is not so abrupt.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Exhibit K

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The matter concerning the treatment of the retaining wall for the parkway under the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge was reconsidered by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting held May 9, 1941. The Commission agreed that the guard fence is preferable to a parapet wall since it would not obstruct a view of the spring line of the arch.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT L

COPY

May 10, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The matter concerning the treatment of the retaining wall for the parkway under the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge was reconsidered by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting held May 9, 1941. The Commission agreed that the guard fence is preferable to a parapet wall since it would not obstruct a view of the spring line of the arch.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K

COPY

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following object:

1 Chinese bronze ceremonial vessel of the type hou,

which has been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. John E. Lodge, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

May 9, 1941

Wm. F. Lamb
For the Commission of Fine Arts

April 23, 1941

Katharine N. Rhoades

Exhibit M

COPY

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission

of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, as provided in

Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles

L. Freer, have examined the following object:

1 Chinese bronze ceremonial
vessel of the type hou,

which has been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery

of Art by Mr. John E. Lodge, Director, and they hereby approve

the purchase.

May 9, 1941

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

Wm. P. Lamb
For the Commission of Fine Arts

April 23, 1941

Katharine N. Rhoades

Exhibit M

Jun 15, 2017